

The IRGC's Global War Against Jews and Israel: A Strategic Briefing

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Executive Summary

The most immediate and escalating threat facing the Jewish people and the State of Israel today does not emanate simply from the Islamic Republic of Iran as a sovereign entity — it emanates from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the ideological praetorian guard of the regime. The IRGC is not merely a branch of Iran's military. It is the regime's religious militia, terror apparatus, and export arm of jihadist revolution.¹ Its loyalty is not to the Iranian nation, nor to the well-being of its citizens, but to the revolutionary creed of Khomeinism — a doctrine that seeks the obliteration of Israel, the subjugation of the West, and the usurpation of Islam's spiritual authority from Saudi Arabia to Qom.²³

The ayatollahs who rule from Tehran may sit atop a state, but their vision is not national — it is imperial and totalising. They see Iran as a base camp, not a country. The regime cares little for Iran's prosperity or its people's freedom. It cares above all for the perpetuation and spread of a revolutionary ideology protected and enforced by the IRGC.⁴

Over four decades, the IRGC and its transnational web of proxies — from Hezbollah and Hamas to cyber hackers and narco-smuggling cells — have waged a relentless war of infiltration and incitement, terror and subversion, across multiple continents. From the bombing of the AMIA Jewish centre in Buenos Aires,⁵ to foiled assassination plots in Paris and Washington, to direct threats against diaspora Jews in London and Berlin, the evidence is overwhelming: this is a deliberate, globalised campaign.

And yet, too often, Western policymakers have viewed these attacks as isolated acts — the work of “rogue elements,” “lone wolves,” or local grievances. This analysis is not just mistaken — it is dangerously negligent.

Much of the language now used by so-called lone actors — from campus chants to placards at anti-Israel protests — has been lifted, almost verbatim, from IRGC

¹ Ali Alfoneh, *Iran Unveiled: How the Revolutionary Guards Is Transforming Iran from Theocracy into Military Dictatorship* (Washington, D.C.: AEI Press, 2013), 5–9.

² Ray Takeyh, *Guardians of the Revolution: Iran and the World in the Age of the Ayatollahs* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 3–12.

³ Mehdi Khalaji, “Apocalyptic Politics: On the Rationality of Iranian Policy,” *The Washington Institute for Near East Policy*, PolicyWatch 1401 (2008), <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/apocalyptic-politics-rationality-iranian-policy>.

⁴ Michael Rubin, “Iran's Revolution at 40,” *American Enterprise Institute*, February 2019, <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/irans-revolution-at-40/>.

⁵ Matthew Levitt, *Hezbollah: The Global Footprint of Lebanon's Party of God* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2013), 93–120.

propaganda. The slogans calling for “Death to Israel,” “Intifada until victory,” or portraying Zionists as demonic forces are not spontaneous expressions of outrage — they are the curated slogans of a state-run incitement machine. Tehran’s information war has penetrated deep into our political discourse, our cultural institutions, and our streets. When activists quote the regime, knowingly or not, they act as amplifiers of its genocidal designs.⁶

This briefing will expose the full breadth of that threat. It will examine how the IRGC has weaponised antisemitism and the Palestinian cause not for the benefit of Palestinians, but as a Trojan horse for revolution and regional domination. It will analyse Iran’s long-standing ideological ambition to wrest leadership of the Muslim world from Saudi Arabia by demonising Israel and radicalising Sunni populations against moderate Arab governments. It will trace how Iran’s militias, media, and digital operatives have turned hatred of Jews into a political export commodity, and how the IRGC continues to orchestrate or inspire attacks on Jews and Israelis across the globe — from synagogues and embassies to cafes, campuses, and cyber networks.

It will also bring forward recent intelligence warnings from MI5, Mossad, and Western security services, all of which have stated unequivocally: the IRGC is not a distant threat. It is here, operating through front groups, inciting through cultural centres, and radicalising online. As one intelligence expert bluntly warned, *“Our Western capitals are next in line for infiltration.”*

The evidence is clear. The time for euphemism is over. Iran’s war on Israel and the Jewish people is not theoretical. It is being waged now, by a state-backed terror network with a global footprint. And the IRGC stands at its centre.

This briefing calls upon the UK, the EU, and all democratic allies to proscribe the IRGC without delay, to shut down its enabling structures, and to stand with Israel and the Jewish diaspora in the face of an existential, ideological assault. We must stop treating this as a security inconvenience or foreign policy nuisance. It is a war of ideas, identity, and survival.

We must name it, confront it, and defeat it.

Iran’s Theocratic Imperialism: A Doctrinal Struggle for Islamic Leadership and Regional Supremacy

At the heart of the Islamic Republic of Iran lies not merely a state, but an ideological project: the ambition to reshape the Middle East—and ultimately the Muslim world—under the banner of its radical Shi’a Islamist revolution. This ambition, embedded in the very fabric of the regime’s political theology, is both ideological and geopolitical in scope. It positions Iran not merely as a rival power but as a revolutionary

⁶ Mehdi Khalaji, “Iran’s Doctrine of ‘Resistance’: Outlines and Implications,” *The Washington Institute for Near East Policy*, Policy Focus 120 (January 2013), <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/irans-doctrine-resistance-outlines-and-implications>.

force bent on overturning the existing regional order, replacing it with a theocratic model governed by *vilayat-e faqih* (the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist) and enforced by the state's ideological army, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

The origins of this vision trace back to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's seizure of power in 1979. From the outset, Khomeini made clear that his revolution was not limited to Iran's borders. Rather, he framed it as the vanguard of a pan-Islamic movement that would "export the revolution" and inspire Muslims globally to rise against what he termed the "arrogant powers"—a euphemism for Western imperialism and corrupt local regimes.⁷

In contrast to the Iranian monarchy under the Shah, which sought regional influence through secular nationalism and Western alignment, Khomeini's republic declared its intent to vie for spiritual and political leadership of the Muslim world. This set it on an inevitable collision course with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the self-proclaimed guardian of Sunni Islam and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques—Mecca and Medina.⁸

Khomeini's challenge to Saudi Arabia was not simply political; it was theological. By questioning Saudi custodianship of the holy places, he directly undermined the religious legitimacy of the Saudi monarchy. Iran's attempt to politicise the Hajj—culminating in deadly clashes in Mecca in 1987 that left over 400 pilgrims dead, most of them Iranian—was a calculated provocation meant to delegitimise the Saudi regime in the eyes of the wider ummah.

Iran's constitution enshrines the export of its Islamist ideology as a national mission. Article 154 commits Iran to support "the just struggles of the oppressed," while the IRGC is tasked with "extending God's law throughout the world". This doctrinal commitment elevates foreign subversion into a matter of national obligation, embedding revolutionary expansionism into state policy.⁹

To operationalise its vision, Tehran has adopted a two-pronged strategy:

1. **Radicalisation and Militarisation:** Iran has systematically built a network of loyalist Shia militias and proxy groups across the Middle East, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, Kata'ib Hezbollah in Iraq, Liwa Fatemiyoun in Syria, and the Houthis in Yemen. These groups serve as ideological extensions of the IRGC, providing Tehran with asymmetrical power projection capabilities while cloaking its actions in the rhetoric of "resistance".¹⁰

⁷ Ruhollah Khomeini, *Sahifeh-ye Imam: The Collected Works of Imam Khomeini*, trans. and ed. International Affairs Department (Tehran: The Institute for Compilation and Publication of Imam Khomeini's Works, 1999), vol. 5, 142–45.

⁸ Yaroslav Trofimov, *The Siege of Mecca: The 1979 Uprising at Islam's Holiest Shrine* (New York: Doubleday, 2007), 233–39.

⁹ *The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, Articles 3, 11, and 154, ratified 1979, amended 1989. Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b5a60.html>

¹⁰ Phillip Smyth, *The Shiite Jihad in Syria and Its Regional Effects*, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Policy Focus 138 (2015), <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/shiite-jihad-syria-and-its-regional-effects>.

2. **Delegitimisation of Saudi Islam:** Iran consistently portrays Saudi Arabia's Wahhabi establishment as corrupt, impious, and beholden to the West. To Shi'a audiences, it paints the House of Saud as historical oppressors of the Prophet's family; to Sunni dissidents, it brands the monarchy as an agent of American imperialism. This propaganda campaign serves to weaken Saudi legitimacy across sectarian lines.¹¹

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei's rhetoric has been consistently vitriolic. After the 2015 Hajj stampede, he accused the Saudi regime of "murdering" Iranian pilgrims and declared it unfit to guard Islam's holiest sites. The response from the Saudi religious establishment was equally severe, with the Grand Mufti asserting that "Iranians are not Muslims," revealing how religious legitimacy remains the core terrain of the Iran–Saudi rivalry.

Tehran's quest for regional supremacy has produced a sprawling network of influence. As one analyst notes, Iran has entrenched itself in "Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad, and Sanaa," exploiting weak institutions, sectarian grievances, and civil conflicts. Where chaos exists, the IRGC seeks to build "states within states," binding local actors to Iranian strategic imperatives through ideological loyalty, arms, and funding.¹²

The aim is not merely political control but transformation of the region's political identity. As Catherine Perez-Shakdam writes, Iran seeks "demographic homogeneity" through religious and political conformity, systematically eradicating pluralism and dissent. In Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, this has taken the form of ethnic cleansing, population displacement, and mass atrocities—tools of sectarian social engineering.

Crucially, antisemitism and anti-Zionism are not peripheral to Iran's ideology—they are central. From the beginning, Khomeini branded Israel the "Little Satan," pairing it with the "Great Satan" (the United States) in a cosmic struggle between Islam and kufr (disbelief). This dualism justifies open-ended jihad not only against Israel but against Jews globally. The IRGC's training manuals, uncovered in 2020, explicitly instruct recruits to "kill Jews, Christians and Zoroastrians" as enemies of Islam.^{13,14}

This virulence is comparable to groups like ISIS or al-Qaeda, yet Iran benefits from the legitimacy of statehood, enabling it to operate embassies, manipulate international

¹¹ Fanar Haddad, *Understanding "Sectarianism": Sunni-Shi'a Relations in the Modern Arab World*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 2017, <https://carnegieendowment.org/2017/03/29/understanding-sectarianism-pub-68310>.

¹² Kimberly Kagan and Frederick W. Kagan, *Iranian Influence in the Levant, Iraq, and Yemen*, Institute for the Study of War (ISW), February 2020, <https://www.understandingwar.org/report/iranian-influence-levant-iraq-and-yemen>.

¹³ Ruhollah Khomeini, *Sahifeh-ye Imam: The Collected Works of Imam Khomeini*, trans. and ed. International Affairs Department (Tehran: The Institute for Compilation and Publication of Imam Khomeini's Works, 1999), vol. 21, 89–91.

¹⁴ Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, *The IRGC Files: Inside Iran's Most Dangerous Terrorist Organization*, 2020, <https://institute.global/policy/irgc-files-inside-irans-most-dangerous-terrorist-organization>.

institutions, and conduct foreign policy while backing terror groups such as Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad.

Tehran also cynically appropriates the Palestinian cause, not to promote Palestinian statehood or rights, but to weaponise it against Israel and the Arab states that support the peace process. Iranian proxies have at times targeted Palestinian civilians when they posed a threat to Iranian interests—as was the case with Iran-backed Shia militias in Iraq during the 2000s.¹⁵

Iran's clerical regime sees itself as the *vanguard* of a transnational Islamic awakening. It seeks not only to dominate the Middle East but to reorder its ideological foundations. Unlike past imperial powers, Iran's theocracy fuses messianism with militarism, revolution with repression. Its leaders envision no geographic limits, only ideological frontiers to be conquered. As the Tony Blair Institute observes, the IRGC's mission is indistinguishable from that of violent jihadist movements, except that it is pursued through the machinery of a modern state.

In sum, Iran is not merely a regional actor with hegemonic aspirations—it is a theocratic insurgency masquerading as a nation-state. Confronting it requires not only strategic containment but also ideological delegitimisation, regional solidarity, and a clear-eyed recognition that Tehran's long game is not just about power, but about reshaping Islam itself.

Weaponising Antisemitism and the Palestinian Cause

A cornerstone of Tehran's strategy has been to weaponise antisemitism and the Palestinian cause as a means to rally Muslim support, undermine Israel, and outmaneuver rival Muslim powers. Iran's propaganda relentlessly conflates "*Zionism*" with Judaism, demonising *all* Jews as enemies of Islam and stoking hatred far beyond Israel's borders. By positioning itself as the fiercest opponent of the Jewish state, Tehran seeks to wear the mantle of the *true* defender of the *ummah* (global Muslim community).¹⁶ This strategy serves multiple aims:

Undermining Israel and Inciting Global Jew-Hatred

Tehran has systematically fanned the flames of antisemitism worldwide under the guise of "anti-Zionism." Iranian leaders openly call for Israel's annihilation in genocidal terms – "*Death to Israel*" is a weekly chant at Friday prayers and in parades. As analyst Catherine Perez-Shakdam attests from her time inside the regime, this slogan is "*not... a critique of Israel's policies vis à vis the Palestinians, but rather...the annihilation not of a state, but a people*". In other words, Iran's war on "Israel" is a war on the Jewish people *themselves*. The Palestinian issue is simply a "*convenient vehicle*" for this

¹⁵ Jonathan Spyer, "Iran's Cynical Use of the Palestinian Cause," *The Jerusalem Post*, January 3, 2018, <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/irans-cynical-use-of-the-palestinian-cause-532489>.

¹⁶ Reuel Marc Gerecht and Ray Takeyh, "Iran's Anti-Semitism," *The Wall Street Journal*, January 6, 2009, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB123120742016989081>.

hatred. Tehran couches its genocidal intent in the language of “liberating Palestine,” but, as Perez-Shakdam warns, *“when Tehran speaks of Palestine...it speaks not of political emancipation for Palestinians but of the existential annihilation of the Jews”*.¹⁷ Iran’s state-controlled media and diplomatic messaging reinforce this ugly agenda.¹⁷ The regime’s international broadcasters – PressTV in English, HispanTV in Spanish, Al-Alam in Arabic, etc. – bombard global audiences with anti-Jewish conspiracies and incitement.

A 2024 ADL report exposed how Iran’s HispanTV spreads Holocaust denial, portrays Jews as sinister controllers of world events, and glorifies violence against Israel. The ADL’s CEO summed up that *“the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the world’s leading state-sponsor of antisemitism and terrorism, uses cultural centers and media across Latin America to incite hostility against Jewish communities”*¹⁸ From South America to Europe, Iran-backed centers propagate narratives that demonise Jews and blame them for Muslim suffering. This incitement has real consequences: it creates an atmosphere that *legitimises attacks on Jews*.

In July 1994, Iran’s Lebanese proxy Hezbollah (acting on orders from Tehran) bombed the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, slaughtering 85 people – the deadliest antisemitic attack since World War II. Iranian state media had long painted Argentina’s Jewish institutions as extensions of the “Zionist regime,” setting the stage for this atrocity. More recently, Iranian cyber operatives have also joined the fray: in 2024 an IRGC-linked hacker group (codename TA453) was caught targeting a prominent Jewish leader with malware in a cyber-espionage attempt. This exemplifies how Iran’s war on Jews spans not only bombs and bullets but bytes and bandwidth as well. Whether through terrorism, propaganda or cyber operations, Tehran provokes hostility toward Jews globally as part of its anti-Israel crusade.¹⁹

Sabotaging Arab–Israeli Peace and Targeting Saudi Arabia

Iranian strategy hinges on preventing any normalization or alliance between Israel and Arab states, which would undercut Tehran’s influence and its claim to lead the Muslim world. Nothing alarms Iran’s regime more than the prospect of its regional rivals *making peace* with Israel – especially its chief rival, Saudi Arabia. Tehran has therefore worked relentlessly to erode Arab-Israeli rapprochement. When the UAE and Bahrain signed the Abraham Accords with Israel in 2020, Iran’s leaders lashed out with fury. Ayatollah Khamenei accused the UAE of *“betraying the Islamic world and the Palestinians”* by normalising ties with the “Zionist regime”, saying the Emiratis *“will be disgraced forever”* for this “betrayal”. Iranian officials warned the Gulf states that partnering with Israel

¹⁷ Catherine Perez-Shakdam, “Iran’s War on the Jews,” *The Times of Israel Blogs*, October 26, 2023, <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/irans-war-on-the-jews/>.

¹⁸ Anti-Defamation League (ADL), *Iran’s Media War in Latin America: How HispanTV Incites Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism*, February 6, 2024, <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/irans-media-war-latin-america>.

¹⁹ Check Point Research, “Iranian APT Group TA453 Targets High-Profile Individuals with Novel Malware ‘BellaCiao,’” April 18, 2024, <https://research.checkpoint.com/2024/ta453-bellaciao>.

would “*risk conflagration*”²⁰ – a thinly veiled threat of instability or attack. In truth, Iran sees any Arab-Israeli cooperation as a direct threat to its own regional project. Nowhere is this more evident than with Saudi Arabia. Riyadh has so far refrained from formally recognising Israel, but in recent years it inched closer to a U.S.-brokered deal. Iran moved aggressively to derail this.

Intelligence sources and world leaders believe Tehran had a hand in the October 7, 2023 Hamas onslaught against Israel, which came as Israel–Saudi normalisation talks were advancing. Hamas – a Sunni Palestinian terror group armed and funded by Iran – launched the surprise massacre specifically “*to disrupt a potential normalization of ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia*,” according to U.S. President Joe Biden.

In the days before the attack, Hamas’s leader in Gaza openly spoke of extraordinary steps to stop the Saudi deal. Indeed, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had reportedly approved Hamas’s battle plan in advance. The result was the worst terrorist bloodbath in Israel’s history – and the *collapse* of budding Saudi-Israeli diplomacy. Tehran achieved its grim objective: the Arab world’s focus swung back to the Palestinian issue, and Saudi leaders, for the time being, shelved overt outreach to Israel. Iranian proxies also directly threaten Saudi Arabia, partly to punish it for even considering peace with Israel.

Yemen’s Houthi rebels (armed by Iran) have launched missiles and drones at Saudi territory, while echoing Tehran’s anti-Israel rhetoric. In Lebanon, Hezbollah rails against any Arab government that cozies up to Jerusalem. By keeping the region inflamed – whether through war in Gaza or insurgency in Yemen – Iran hopes to make any Arab-Israeli partnership politically toxic and physically perilous. Tehran’s message to Saudi Arabia is clear: *defy us (for instance by aligning with Israel), and you will face chaos*. In this way, Iran tries to hold the Arab world hostage to the Palestinian conflict, insisting that no Muslim leader may befriend Israel without betraying Islam. It is a classic divide-and-conquer tactic: Tehran drives a wedge between Israel and the Arab states so that Iran alone can claim the mantle of the Palestinians’ (and Muslims’) champion.

Posturing as Islam’s Revolutionary Vanguard

Hand in hand with the above, Iran positions itself as the *true “religious and revolutionary vanguard”* of Islam – superior in legitimacy to the likes of Saudi Arabia. The Islamic Republic’s founding ideology marries Shi’a Islamist doctrine with revolutionary anti-imperialism. Tehran portrays its fight against Israel (and the West) as *holy jihad*, casting itself as the leader of all “resistance” forces in Islam. This has a powerful resonance in the Muslim street: by loudly championing the Palestinian cause and denouncing Israel and the U.S., Iran taps into a pan-Islamic populist vein that many Arab autocrats had muted. The regime in Tehran deliberately wraps its geopolitical ambitions in the symbolism of Islamic piety and justice. For example, Iran instituted an annual “Quds Day” (Jerusalem Day) on the last Friday of Ramadan – a worldwide day

²⁰ Khamenei, Ayatollah Ali. “Speech on the UAE-Israel Normalization.” *Official Website of the Supreme Leader of Iran*, August 19, 2020. <http://english.khamenei.ir/news/7780>.

of protest against Israel's control of Jerusalem. Iranian embassies and propaganda arms help organise Quds Day rallies from Tehran to London. Crowds (often coordinated by pro-Iran groups) chant "Death to Israel" and wave banners of the IRGC and Hezbollah. In one London Quds Day march, an IRGC flag was brazenly raised in Trafalgar Square, reflecting how Tehran uses such events to project influence far beyond its borders. *(Image: An IRGC flag is displayed by demonstrators during an anti-Israel Quds Day rally in London, 2021 – an event initiated by Iran to oppose Israel's control of Jerusalem.)*

By staging these spectacles, Iran attempts to demonstrate that it, not the Saudi monarch or any Sunni authority, is the standard-bearer of the Muslim world's struggles. Tehran's state media amplifies this image: it calls Arab leaders who partner with Israel "traitors" and hails Iran and its Supreme Leader as the only ones faithful to Islamic unity and resistance. Internally, Khamenei has even been ascribed a quasi-divine stature – IRGC indoctrination teaches that the Supreme Leader holds "*the same authority of the Prophet*" with a duty to "*spread Islam to other countries*".

This messianic outlook feeds into Iran's support for Islamist militias across the region (Hezbollah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Iraqi and Afghan Shi'a fighters, etc.), all of whom pledge fealty to Iran's revolutionary line. Through them, Tehran claims to lead a transnational "*Axis of Resistance*" against Israel and Western influence. The irony, of course, is that Iran's vision of "Islamic unity" is profoundly sectarian and violent – predicated on exporting Khomeini's brand of Shi'ite authoritarianism and eliminating those (Jews, "Crusaders," Sunni "hypocrites" alike) who stand in its way.^{21 22}

Nonetheless, by loudly beating the drums against Israel and invoking Palestine at every turn, Tehran has successfully burnished its credentials on the "Arab street" and among Islamist hardliners. Even some Sunni jihadist factions admire Iran for "walking the walk" against Israel (for instance, arming Hamas and Hezbollah) whereas they view Saudi Arabia and Egypt as sell-outs. In sum, Iran has weaponised the Palestinian cause as a litmus test of Islamic legitimacy, one it uses to position itself above its Sunni rivals. The more Tehran can paint others as complicit with Zionism, the more it claims the title of *true* defender of Islam – a critical component of its bid for religious hegemony.

A Global Terror Campaign Against Jews and Israelis: The Islamic Republic's Transnational Strategy of Fear and Subversion

Iran's violent actions have long matched its incendiary rhetoric—but in recent years, they have cohered into something more organised, more insidious, and more

²¹ Nadav Pollak, *The Transformation of Hezbollah by Iran: A Case Study in Iranian Proxy Warfare*, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Policy Focus 138 (2016), 5–13, <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/transformation-hezbollah-iran>.

²² Afshon Ostovar, *Vanguard of the Imam: Religion, Politics, and Iran's Revolutionary Guards* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), 113–129.

transnational than ever before: a *globalised, state-directed campaign of antisemitic terror and ideological warfare*. At the epicentre of this campaign lies a strategic imperative: to delegitimise the Jewish state, radicalise diaspora populations, and create an omnipresent threat environment for Jews worldwide.

This is not merely about revenge or “resistance.” It is a *doctrine of deterrence through diaspora destabilisation*—a war on Jews as a lever against Israel, waged through terror cells, digital propaganda, and proxy militias, all coordinated or catalysed by the IRGC-Quds Force and Tehran’s intelligence apparatus.

The Islamic Republic’s campaign has evolved beyond traditional terror attacks into a form of “*globalised warfare*”—global in reach, but localised in impact. It operates across three converging planes:

- **Kinetic Operations:** As evidenced by the 1992 and 1994 bombings in Buenos Aires, the 2012 Burgas bus bombing, and recent plots in Cyprus, Turkey, Germany, Colombia, and Greece, Iran has consistently outsourced violence to non-Iranian agents—Hezbollah operatives, criminal mercenaries, Shia diaspora recruits—creating plausible deniability while maintaining operational control.²³
- **Ideological Incitement:** From calls for “Days of Rage” after the Al-Ahli Hospital incident to social media amplification by IRGC-aligned accounts, Tehran weaponises the digital sphere to incite antisemitic violence far beyond its borders, as seen in the Berlin synagogue firebombing by an Iranian asylum-seeker.²⁴
- **Cognitive Infiltration:** Through disinformation campaigns, cyberattacks, and cultural manipulation, Tehran is actively poisoning the epistemic environment of Western civil society. It has curated a digital architecture of radicalisation that targets not only Muslims but Western “useful idiots” eager to validate anti-Israel tropes under the guise of “intersectionality” or “decolonisation.”²⁵

Iran’s strategy must be understood as *deliberate psychological warfare* against Jewish communities. The objective is not just physical harm but *ambient insecurity*. By targeting synagogues in Europe, businessmen in Latin America, and tourists in Southeast Asia, Tehran ensures that Jews everywhere feel exposed to risk—thus linking Jewish identity with vulnerability.

This campaign is explicitly antisemitic, not merely anti-Israel. Mossad Chief David Barnea has revealed dozens of plots foiled against diaspora Jews—not just state officials or Mossad agents, but ordinary civilians. The message is clear: *any Jew, anywhere, is fair game*.

²³ Matthew Levitt, *Hezbollah: The Global Footprint of Lebanon’s Party of God* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2013), 101–128.

²⁴ BBC News, “Hezbollah Calls for ‘Day of Rage’ after Gaza Hospital Blast,” *BBC News*, October 18, 2023, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67145879>.

²⁵ Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, *Propaganda, Power and Persistent Threats: The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Information Warfare*, 2020, <https://institute.global/policy/propaganda-power-and-persistent-threats-irgc-information-warfare>.

This logic mirrors classical fascism—*demonise the Jew to justify extraordinary violence*—but updated with Islamist semantics. For Iran, antisemitism is not a by-product of its ideology; it is its *keystone*. It is the ritual that justifies permanent war and underwrites its self-appointed messianic mission.

Perhaps the most overlooked dimension of Iran's campaign is its *digitised psychological warfare*, tailored to Western audiences. Since 2020, Iranian intelligence units and IRGC-affiliated cyber groups have operated thousands of fake social media accounts posing as progressive activists, academics, or anti-colonial voices. These accounts regurgitate hashtags like #FreePalestine, while subtly pushing conspiracies that Jews control media, finance, or global oppression structures.²⁶

This *clickbait jihad* creates feedback loops: young Westerners unknowingly amplify Tehran's narratives, radicalise each other, and in some cases, take action. Iran doesn't need to fund every synagogue attack or street riot—it only needs to flood the discourse with fuel, confident that someone, somewhere, will light the match.

Indeed, Tehran has discovered a terrifying asymmetry: *in the West, you can provoke terror through memes and manifestos, without firing a bullet*. This makes the regime's ideology a metastasising threat to liberal democracies as much as to Israel.

Another alarming trend is Tehran's growing reliance on non-ideological criminal elements—Pakistanis in Athens, German-Iranians in Düsseldorf, Latin American gangs in Colombia—to carry out attacks. This outsourcing strategy achieves several goals:

- It reduces the paper trail to Tehran.
- It creates a grey zone between terrorism and organised crime.
- It allows Iran to maintain *statehood impunity* while exporting stateless violence.

In the next phase, expect a rise in hybrid threats: ransomware targeting Jewish charities; cartel-linked kidnappings of Israeli travellers; cyberattacks on Holocaust museums or synagogues. This is not speculation—it is already unfolding.

At its core, Iran's global campaign is designed to *transform the cost-benefit calculus of Jewish belonging*. By making Jewish presence in the diaspora synonymous with danger, Tehran aims to:

- Force Israel into siege psychology: If diaspora Jews are unsafe, Israel becomes both refuge and prison.
- Dissuade Western Jews from active Zionist support: Fearful communities withdraw, ceding the public space to pro-Iran and anti-Israel voices.

²⁶ Graphika, *Iran's Inauthentic Influence Infrastructure: How Tehran Repackaged Anti-Zionism for the Western Left*, July 2023, <https://graphika.com/reports/iranian-influence-infrastructure-2023>.

- Undermine Israel’s diplomatic relationships: States under Iranian threat may seek to appease the regime or distance themselves from perceived Jewish or Zionist entanglements.²⁷²⁸

This is a form of *strategic antisemitism*—instrumentalised to achieve geopolitical and psychological goals.

Iran’s terror republic is not simply exporting its revolution; it is *reformatting* the global Jewish experience. Through assassinations, arson, cyberwarfare, and incitement, the Islamic Republic is building a *transnational theatre of antisemitic warfare*—not to liberate Palestinians, but to entrench a Shia supremacist caliphate by scapegoating the Jew.

Its proxies roam freely in Western capitals. Its slogans trend in Western universities. Its operatives infiltrate mosques, charities, and activist spaces. And its ideology travels faster than its missiles.

Unless confronted not just militarily but *ideologically*, Tehran’s campaign will continue to ensnare Jewish communities, silence dissidents, and seduce radicals into its cause. The longer the West fails to recognise this as an *Iranian-engineered pogrom by other means*, the greater the cost—not just for Jews, but for the integrity of democratic civilisations themselves.

Warnings from Intelligence Agencies: “A Threat Everywhere”

Western and Israeli intelligence agencies have been sounding the alarm about Iran’s global terror reach for years – and their warnings have grown more urgent as Tehran’s activities escalate.

In November 2022, MI5’s Ken McCallum took the rare step of publicly disclosing that Iran had attempted at least 10 assassinations or kidnappings in the UK in that year alone. He described this as “*an aggressive pattern*” of Iranian state action, and emphasized that British authorities were working round-the-clock to disrupt these plots. British Security Minister Tom Tugendhat likewise stated in 2023 that Iran’s regime “*poses an unacceptable threat to our domestic security*”, implicitly criticising the

²⁷ Catherine Perez-Shakdam, “Iran’s War on the Jews,” *The Times of Israel Blogs*, October 26, 2023, <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/irans-war-on-the-jews/>.

²⁸ ony Blair Institute for Global Change, *The Islamic Republic of Iran’s Strategy to Spread Fear and Division*, March 2022, <https://institute.global/policy/irans-strategy-spread-fear-and-division>.

continued legality of IRGC front organizations in Britain. Across the Channel, European security services have amassed similar evidence.^{29 30}

A February 2023 Europol report (and multiple national intelligence assessments) noted that Iran's IRGC and Ministry of Intelligence (MOIS) were increasingly operating on European soil, surveilling Israeli embassies, Jewish diaspora centers, and Iranian dissidents. European counterterror experts have uncovered Iranian plots that use drug smugglers and gangsters to facilitate attacks – a “criminal proxy” modus operandi seen in at least *five* EU countries. Even the United States – long a prime target for Iran's ire – has seen Tehran extend its terror plotting to American soil. In 2021–2022, U.S. federal agents foiled IRGC attempts to assassinate former U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton and ex-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on American soil (apparently in retaliation for the killing of IRGC Quds Force chief Qassem Soleimani).^{31 32}

In October 2023, the U.S. Homeland Security Department's intelligence chief warned that Iran-backed threats to Americans (including Jewish Americans) had “*reached a new level*,” noting Tehran's willingness to potentially activate sleeper operatives if it felt war with Israel widening.

Israeli intelligence, for its part, has been ringing alarm bells about Iranian terror abroad with increasing frequency. Mossad Director David Barnea in late 2022 publicly warned that “*once [a new Iran nuclear] deal is signed, there will be no restraint on Iranian terrorism*” due to the financial windfall Tehran would receive. He revealed that Israeli intelligence had worked with foreign partners to successfully foil attacks on Israeli/Jewish targets in Cyprus, Turkey, Colombia, Tanzania, India, and others, all in the preceding year.^{33 34}

Barnea called Iran “*the terror republic*” and vowed that Israel “*will go after [the] regime leaders in Tehran if Israelis or Jews are harmed*”. This was no idle threat; it came after Iran's agents came perilously close to murdering Israelis in Istanbul in June 2022 – a

²⁹ MI5, “Director General Ken McCallum's Annual Threat Update 2022,” *UK Security Service (MI5)*, November 16, 2022, <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/news/director-general-annual-threat-update-2022>.

³⁰ Patrick Wintour, “Iranian Threat to UK ‘Unacceptable’, Says Security Minister Tugendhat,” *The Guardian*, February 20, 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/20/iranian-threat-to-uk-unacceptable-says-security-minister-tugendhat>.

³¹ Europol, *European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2023*, February 28, 2023, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/tesat-2023-european-union-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report>.

³² U.S. Department of Justice, “Iranian National Charged in Plot to Murder Former National Security Advisor John Bolton,” August 10, 2022, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/iranian-national-charged-plot-murder-former-national-security-advisor-john-bolton>.

³³ Lahav Harkov, “Mossad Chief: Dozens of Iranian Terror Attacks Foiled Around the World,” *The Jerusalem Post*, December 22, 2022, <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-725177>.

³⁴ Ronen Bergman and Patrick Kingsley, “Israeli Officials Warn of Increased Terror If Iran Nuclear Deal Is Signed,” *The New York Times*, August 25, 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/25/world/middleeast/israel-iran-nuclear-deal.html>.

plot that prompted Israel to urgently airlift tourists out of Turkey and which was thwarted only at the last minute by Mossad and Turkish security forces. The head of Israel's Shin Bet domestic security service also noted that Iran had moved "from trying to target Israeli officials *in Israel* to targeting Israelis *abroad and Jewish communities*" where security is looser – a shift that deeply concerns Jerusalem.

In short, friendly intelligence agencies (MI5, Mossad, the CIA, European services) now concur that Iran's regime is *actively* preparing or instigating terrorist acts against diaspora Jews and Israeli citizens across the globe. The threat is not hypothetical; it is happening in real time, on multiple continents.

Yet, despite these stark warnings, there remain gaps in the international response – gaps Iran is adept at exploiting. Notably, in the United Kingdom and the European Union, the IRGC is still not formally proscribed as a terrorist organisation, even though its proxies like Hezbollah *are*. This inconsistency has drawn growing criticism from experts and lawmakers. The UK Parliament in January 2023 unanimously passed a motion urging the government to ban the IRGC, recognising that the Guards "*operate no differently to proscribed groups... including ISIS, al-Qaeda and Hizbullah*". The IRGC's "long arm" in Britain and Europe includes front charities, cultural centers, and companies that provide cover for espionage or radicalisation.^{35 36}

For example, an IRGC-run "Islamic Centre" in London held vigils glorifying IRGC General Qassem Soleimani even after he was sanctioned as a terrorist. British children were shown singing an IRGC propaganda anthem pledging martyrdom, in Farsi, on UK soil – a chilling sign of how far Tehran's ideological reach extends into Western communities. Security officials fear that without tougher measures, Iran could even mobilise such extremist networks for violence in the West.

The UK's Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation has called for new powers to ban hostile state groups like the IRGC, noting that its activities "*fit all of the criteria*" for terrorism under UK law. Likewise, a 2023 report by the Tony Blair Institute laid out compelling reasons for proscription: "*For more than 43 years, the IRGC has been responsible for plotting global terrorist attacks, hostage-taking and other offences on foreign soil – including in Europe and the UK*".

It stressed that since 2015, IRGC threats in the West have *surged*, with MI5 confirming the trend. Simply put, allowing the IRGC to fundraise, organise and propagandize freely in Western jurisdictions is a recipe for disaster. Every additional day of legal tolerance is one more day the regime's agents can "scout" targets, radicalise local extremists, or intimidate diaspora critics without consequence.

³⁵ UK House of Commons, *Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC): Motion Passed on January 12, 2023*, Hansard HC Deb vol. 726 col. 723, <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-01-12/debates/7DFB4B7C-BF5C-41F3-BD41-15A6C16F079D/IranSIslamicRevolutionaryGuardCorps>.

³⁶ The Jewish Chronicle, "MPs Demand Ban on Iran's IRGC: Motion Passes Unopposed in Commons," January 12, 2023, <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/mps-demand-ban-on-irans-irgc-motion-passes-unopposed-in-commons-6xk8lw57>.

Audit and Autopsy: The Linguistic Convergence Between Pro-Palestinian Activism and Iranian Regime Propaganda

For too long, Western leaders have failed to discern that the language of anti-Zionist activism is not merely an expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people—it has increasingly become a vehicle for the dissemination of Iranian regime ideology, often word-for-word. What appears on placards in London, New York, or Berlin today is not spontaneous outrage. It is the culmination of *decades of narrative incubation* by Iran's clerical regime, Hezbollah's media arms, and the IRGC's propaganda networks.

A rigorous audit of contemporary pro-Palestinian slogans, social media trends, and protest rhetoric reveals disturbing overlaps with the information warfare doctrine deployed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is not coincidence; it is the consequence of an *ideologically colonised discourse*, in which Western activists unwittingly parrot the ideological language of a state sponsor of terrorism.

"From the River to the Sea": Revolutionary Erasure

- **Pro-Palestinian Usage:** A rallying cry calling for the dismantling of Israel, framed as a call for “freedom” or “liberation.”
- **IRGC Equivalent:** This mirrors the Iranian regime's foundational objective of the “liberation of Palestine,” a euphemism for the destruction of Israel, encoded in its constitution and IRGC manifestos.

Khamenei has used identical phrasing in official sermons: “The Zionist regime will be eradicated from the map, from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free”.

This phrase is not geographical poetry. It is *territorial exterminationism*, a genocidal goal dressed up in liberationist terms. When chanted in Western capitals, it echoes the IRGC's war doctrine—verbatim.

"Global Intifada": Transnationalising Terror

- **Pro-Palestinian Usage:** Used to galvanise global mobilisation, especially among diasporas and leftist networks.
- **IRGC Equivalent:** The call for a *global intifada* has long been a hallmark of Iran's outreach to Shia and Sunni populations alike, via Hezbollah's Al-Manar, PressTV, and social media. “Intifada” in Iranian doctrine is synonymous with *armed resistance*, not peaceful protest.

Iran's Supreme Leader explicitly stated in 2021: "The intifada must be armed. Resistance must be global. The Zionist regime must feel insecure everywhere".

The term has thus been functionally *repurposed* in the West by Iran's ideological auxiliaries, many of whom do not know they are amplifying calls for armed rebellion under the guise of civil rights.

"Zionism is Racism" / "Zionists are Colonisers"

- **Pro-Palestinian Usage:** Framed as anti-colonial critique; attempts to equate Israel with apartheid South Africa.
- **IRGC Equivalent:** This is the *semantic core* of Iranian ideological warfare. Tehran's disinformation architecture has relentlessly promoted this narrative to criminalise Zionism in international forums, particularly through its influence on the UN, UNESCO, and global leftist NGOs.

The IRGC's ideological texts describe Zionism as "a satanic project of Western imperialism to divide Islam," and equate it with "racial supremacy," echoing modern Western activist language.

This linguistic inversion—accusing Jews of being the racists—serves the same purpose in both contexts: to morally delegitimise Jewish self-determination.

"Resistance" as a Sacred Act

- **Pro-Palestinian Usage:** Protesters and activists increasingly use the term "resistance" to refer to Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, sometimes explicitly framing violence as justifiable or even heroic.
- **IRGC Equivalent:** "Resistance" (*muqawama*) is a religious term in Iranian doctrine, describing holy warfare (*jihad*) against Israel and the West. It is also used in the branding of terrorist proxies—e.g. "Islamic Resistance in Iraq" or "Islamic Resistance in Lebanon" (Hezbollah).

Ayatollah Khamenei refers to Palestinian terror attacks as "divine resistance" and calls martyrdom operations "the greatest form of resistance".

This is the *sacralisation of violence*, dressed in secular language for Western consumption. Activists chant "resistance," not knowing they are speaking in the lexicon of jihad.

"Death to Israel" ≈ "Ceasefire Now"

- **Pro-Palestinian Usage:** In the wake of Hamas's October 7 massacre, protestors immediately called for a ceasefire, ignoring Hamas's genocidal charter or the thousands of rockets fired at Israeli civilians.

- **IRGC Equivalent:** Tehran's strategy has always been to shield its proxies by calling for ceasefires only *after* their initial surprise attacks. “Ceasefire” becomes a tactic for freezing gains and preserving Hamas or Hezbollah positions.

Iranian Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian regularly uses the call for a “ceasefire” as cover for regrouping Iran’s axis of resistance. The IRGC promotes this language through international NGOs and media channels.

The linguistic convergence here is not semantic—it is *strategic*. Calls for a ceasefire immediately after mass atrocities serve Iranian tactical interests and are often circulated in real-time by Tehran-funded bot networks and sympathiser influencers.

The parallels are undeniable. Western activist circles, progressive NGOs, and university unions are recycling—knowingly or not—the *lexicon of the IRGC*. The slogans, metaphors, and narratives they use are not grassroots; they are *curated, seeded, and amplified* by Iran’s vast information warfare infrastructure. This is not free speech. This is *state-sponsored ideological infiltration*, laundering jihadist rhetoric into Western discourse through the camouflage of “human rights” and “anti-racism.”

If Western leaders cannot learn to read this writing on the wall, they will continue mistaking the chant for the chant alone—while ignoring the hand that wrote it.

It is not enough to track terror plots. We must track terror *phrases*. The IRGC does not merely operate through missiles and spies. It operates through hashtags, leaflets, and chants—because in the information age, *language is lethality*.

Missed Signals: What Policymakers Ignored and Why That Must End Now

For over two decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been writing in bold letters across the global wall: *We are at war with Israel. We are at war with Jews. We are at war with you.*

And yet, Western governments, institutions, and publics have misread, ignored, or dismissed the writing as rhetorical posturing or regional posturing. What should have been red alerts were too often brushed off as diplomatic static.

This section identifies critical signals that were missed—ignored at best, rationalised at worst—and explains why failure to connect these dots has enabled the IRGC’s ideological war to metastasise into Western democracies.

Red Flag #1: Chants and Placards Echoing Khamenei

When and Where: London (Al-Quds Day rallies), New York (anti-Israel marches), Paris and Berlin (post-Gaza protests)

The Signal: Protesters chant “From the river to the sea” and “Death to Zionists” while waving Hezbollah and IRGC flags.

Why It Matters: These are not generic slogans. They mirror the exact language used in **official Friday sermons broadcast from Qom and Tehran**. Khamenei himself declared in 2021: *“Palestine must be liberated from the river to the sea... The Zionist regime must be eradicated”*.

What Was Missed: Western authorities treated this as protected protest speech or student “expression.” In truth, it was a direct verbal echo of state-backed genocidal doctrine. No other foreign state would be granted such linguistic latitude.

Red Flag #2: Quds Day in the Heart of Western Cities

When and Where: Annually since the 1980s – major cities across Europe and North America.

The Signal: An Iranian regime-invented day of protest (Al-Quds Day) sees marches through London, Frankfurt, Toronto, and beyond, explicitly calling for Israel’s destruction. IRGC symbols and Hezbollah regalia are openly displayed.

Why It Matters: Quds Day is *not* a Palestinian civil society initiative. It is a **state-mandated day of revolutionary incitement** initiated by Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979 and organised abroad by Iranian proxies via embassies and “cultural centres”.

What Was Missed: Governments consistently permitted these marches under the banner of “community expression,” failing to grasp that they constitute **Tehran’s psychological projection of war** into the heart of democracies.

Red Flag #3: “Ceasefire Now” as a Tactical Weapon

When and Where: October 2023 – immediately following the Hamas massacre of October 7.

The Signal: Within 48 hours of Hamas’s mass slaughter of Israeli civilians, pro-Palestinian protests in Western capitals demanded an “immediate ceasefire,” without a single condemnation of Hamas.

Why It Matters: This language was *identical* to that pushed by Iranian state media outlets and spokespersons. Iran’s Foreign Minister called for a ceasefire before the bodies were even buried — a **deliberate strategy to freeze the battlefield and shield its proxies**.

What Was Missed: Western governments assumed this was a civil society call for peace. In fact, it was a rhetorical **shield for terror**, mirroring the IRGC’s media playbook.

Red Flag #4: “Global Intifada” Coordinated Online

When and Where: October 2023 – TikTok, Instagram, Twitter

The Signal: The hashtag #GlobalIntifada surged to global prominence within days of Hamas’s attack, trending across social media platforms in multiple languages. The phrase was shared by influencers, leftist groups, and Islamist accounts alike.

Why It Matters: This terminology is *militarised*. “Global Intifada” is a concept deeply embedded in IRGC messaging, promoted for years by Hezbollah’s Al-Manar TV and Iranian-funded proxies as a call for global armed resistance, not protest.

What Was Missed: Policymakers and tech platforms treated the trend as spontaneous grassroots rage. In reality, it was seeded by **Iranian-linked bot networks and propaganda nodes**, feeding the digital ecosystem of radicalisation.

Red Flag #5: Plots, Propaganda, and Proxies – All Ignored as “Isolated”

When and Where: 2022–2024 – Athens, Düsseldorf, Bogotá, Istanbul, London

The Signal: Iranian-linked individuals or proxies were arrested for plotting attacks on synagogues, Jewish businesses, and Israeli citizens. Intelligence services repeatedly named the IRGC or its Quds Force as the operational architect.

Why It Matters: These were *coordinated international campaigns*, not isolated events. The use of non-Iranian criminals and proxy cells follows a **doctrinal model of asymmetric deniability**.

What Was Missed: Media framed these cases as “foiled attacks” without interrogating the deeper strategy: the IRGC’s ongoing effort to export not just bombs—but *ideological terror by design*.

Each of these signals, in isolation, could be dismissed as noise. Together, they form a **clear and escalating pattern**: Iran is actively waging war not just against Israel, but against the West’s ability to see clearly. It launders its violence through language. It cloaks its intent in slogans. It radicalises through platforms we refuse to regulate and allies we refuse to scrutinise.

This is the writing on the wall. And it is written in Farsi, Arabic, and English alike.

If we cannot read it, we will pay for our blindness in blood, policy failure, and societal fragmentation.

Confronting the Iranian Threat with Clarity and Resolve

In the powerful words of author Douglas Murray, *“there are occasions when saying the obvious is a sign of moral courage.”*

The case of Iran is just such an occasion. It is now obvious to all who care to look that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not a normal state but a revolutionary menace – *the* world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism, and uniquely, the only state openly committed to the genocidal eradication of another nation (Israel). Tehran’s long-running ideological war against Zionism is, in truth, a war against the Jewish people as a whole, one couched in the frenzied rhetoric of jihad and “resistance.” This campaign represents a direct and growing threat not only to Israelis in their cafes and homes, but to Jewish communities from London to Buenos Aires, from Mumbai to Los Angeles. It also threatens the stability of the Middle East by sabotaging prospects for peace and inciting sectarian hatred. Western democracies ignore or downplay this threat at their peril. As Catherine Perez-Shakdam – who witnessed Iran’s hatred firsthand – warned, *“unless the world wakes up to the true meaning of [Tehran’s] language, it risks giving implicit support to Iran’s genocidal designs.”* The 1930s taught us the deadly cost of underestimating a regime that *means what it says* about annihilating Jews. We must not repeat that mistake out of diplomatic inertia or wishful thinking.

What is needed now is a sober, *strategic* response grounded in moral clarity. First, countries that have not already done so must formally designate the IRGC and its affiliates as terrorist organisations. This will empower law enforcement to crack down on IRGC operatives, cut off funding channels, and deter institutions from giving the regime’s agents free rein. The IRGC meets every legal criterion for proscription – it *“justifies, glorifies and prioritises armed jihad”* against innocents, *“supports terrorism”* abroad (from Hezbollah to Hamas), and has conspired to murder people on our soil. Banning it is not only a symbolic step but a practical one that would disrupt Tehran’s networks in our midst. Second, Western capitals must abandon illusions of “business as usual” with Tehran’s mullahs. Engagement for engagement’s sake – as in the JCPOA nuclear deal era – has emboldened the regime by conveying that its worst behaviors will be overlooked in pursuit of limited agreements. Instead, robust sanctions and diplomatic isolation should be employed to hold Iran accountable for its global terror. Every Iranian diplomat expelled in response to terror plots, every Iranian bank cut off for funding the IRGC, sends the message that *there is a price for targeting our citizens*. Third, intelligence cooperation among Western and allied services (including Israel’s) should be intensified even further to pre-empt and foil Iranian plots. As we have seen, such teamwork has already saved countless lives in places like Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. The “shadow war” with Iran’s terror squads is now a worldwide effort, and it will take vigilance from Bangkok to Berlin to ensure Iran cannot execute its malign plans. Finally, leaders should not shy away from calling out Iran’s antisemitic ideology for what it is. It is crucial to strip away the regime’s propaganda facade – the pretense that it opposes only Israeli “policies” or “Zionism.” Tehran’s own insiders admit that *“the simple fact is...*

when [Tehran] speaks of Palestine... it speaks of the existential annihilation of the Jews." This genocidal antisemitism must be named and shamed on the world stage, just as apartheid or ISIS's crimes were. Doing so will galvanise more countries – including in the Arab world – to join forces against Iran's toxic influence. Notably, many Arab states (e.g. the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco) have come to see Iran, not Israel, as the greater threat to regional security and coexistence. This emerging Arab-Israeli alignment against Iranian aggression is a positive development that Western policymakers should encourage, rather than impede with equivocation.

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran has long since proven that it is neither a normal state nor a distant problem. It is an expansionist theocracy that *exports extremism and orchestrates violence* against Jews and allies globally – truly, the "terror republic" of our era. To protect our communities and uphold international peace, we must treat Iran's regime with the seriousness and resolve that we once applied to other totalitarian threats. That means being unapologetically proactive: proscribing the IRGC and all Iranian proxy entities, fortifying our Jewish institutions, thwarting Iran's cyber and clandestine operations, and refusing to let Tehran's antisemitic narrative go unchallenged. As Douglas Murray might put it, this is a matter of defending our values and our people's lives against a fanatical foe. The time for half-measures and wishful thinking is over. Iran's rulers have declared war on the Jewish people and all who support them – it is past time we recognise this reality and respond with the strength, unity and moral conviction that it demands.

Case Study: The Washington Murders – A Forensic Autopsy of Indoctrination

On May 21, 2025, two Israeli diplomats were murdered in cold blood in Washington, D.C., a brazen act that sent a fresh tremor through Jewish communities worldwide and set alarm bells ringing in diplomatic and intelligence circles. The perpetrator, Elias Rodrigues, may have pulled the trigger alone — but he did not act in a vacuum. His weapon was not merely a firearm, but an ideology meticulously seeded by a foreign power. While a direct operational link to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has not yet been officially established, the contours of the crime — its target, timing, and ideological imprint — bear unmistakable hallmarks of Tehran's long-standing strategy: the outsourcing of violence through ideological mobilisation.

This was not a random act of hate. It was the downstream effect of an engineered information ecosystem — one built and cultivated by the IRGC and Iran’s Ministry of Intelligence (MOIS) to radicalise, inspire, and activate lone actors who internalise Iran’s doctrinal war against Jews and Israel. In this light, Rodrigues becomes less a lone wolf and more a digital conscript in a transnational theatre of war. The slogans he consumed and repeated, the conspiracies he may have believed, and the moral universe in which Israeli diplomats became ‘legitimate targets’ are all traceable to a vast psychological warfare architecture emanating from Tehran. This murder was the violent exclamation mark at the end of a very long propaganda sentence.

A Lone Actor in a Coordinated Ecosystem

Rodrigues did not need to receive instructions from Tehran to be operationalised by it. His digital trail — like that of other self-radicalised individuals — intersected with the ecosystem of anti-Zionist propaganda, antisemitic tropes, and conspiratorial narratives seeded and amplified by IRGC-linked accounts, Iranian state media, and “activist” platforms that blur journalism and jihadist rhetoric.

Iran’s ideological network has shifted from recruitment through mosques to radicalisation via memes, live streams, and hashtags. The slogans that reportedly adorned Rodrigues’s online output — demonisation of Zionism, denunciation of Israeli ‘genocide’, framing of Jews as global oppressors — are not spontaneous or grassroots. They are the digital fallout of a curated and institutionalised information war, directed by Tehran.

The Regime’s Footprint

Iran’s state-owned or state-aligned platforms such as PressTV, HispanTV, and countless Telegram channels act as vectorised incubators of antisemitic ideology. These outlets merge classical conspiracism (Jews control media and finance) with progressive affectations (“anti-colonialism,” “decolonisation,” “intersectionality”) to mobilise Western radicals. They weaponise the language of rights to legitimise murder.

In particular:

- *PressTV* has repeatedly portrayed Mossad agents as fair game.
- IRGC-affiliated cyber groups such as TA453 have run operations pushing dehumanising imagery of Israeli officials.
- Social media networks under Iranian influence (as documented in the 2024 Graphika report) have created “activist” avatars who call for ‘direct action’ against Jewish figures.

This layered propaganda construct doesn’t issue orders — it manufactures *permission*. It constructs the *moral logic through* which a Rodrigues sees himself not as a murderer, but as a liberator.

When Propaganda Becomes Doctrine

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has described Israel as a “cancerous tumour” that must be “uprooted and destroyed.” This is not the rhetorical flourish of a belligerent autocrat. It is state-sanctioned doctrine — codified, repeated, and weaponised. In the Islamic Republic, such declarations carry not only ideological weight but legal and theological authority. They define the parameters of political virtue, religious duty, and moral legitimacy. Within this framework, the annihilation of Israel — and, by extension, the targeting of Jews and Zionists worldwide — is not a policy preference. It is a sacred mission.

When this language enters the bloodstream of global discourse — through satellite media, digital proxies, “resistance” slogans, or academic euphemisms — it ceases to be merely Iranian. It becomes transnational dogma. The boundary between propaganda and theology collapses. What begins as incitement evolves into obligation. And what was once fringe becomes, in the eyes of radicalised minds, a rational act of justice.

This is the world in which Elias Rodrigues killed two Israeli diplomats. He did not require formal training, material support, or clandestine instruction from the IRGC. He did not need to fly to Tehran to attend a seminar on “resistance.” All he needed was to inhabit the echo chamber Iran has built — a doctrinal franchise where one may kill in the name of Palestine, strike in the name of decolonisation, or martyr oneself under the banner of anti-Zionism. In this model, the regime does not command — it cultivates. It does not recruit — it radicalises.

That a lone individual, without apparent operational ties to Hezbollah or the Quds Force, could internalise this logic and act upon it is not evidence of Iran’s distance from the crime. It is, rather, the clearest proof of the regime’s success in exporting its ideology. The Islamic Republic has achieved what all totalitarian systems aspire to: the outsourcing of violence through the internalisation of belief.

This is no longer a matter of regional instability. It is a global security crisis. Iran has successfully internationalised its war on Israel and the Jews, embedding it within protest slogans, university debates, digital algorithms, and radical activism. The murder in Washington was not a glitch. It was a signal — that doctrine kills, even across oceans.

Strategic Implication

This murder must not be dismissed as an isolated tragedy or the isolated outburst of a disturbed individual. It is a strategic signal, and it must be read as such — a case study in *proxy radicalisation* carried out through ideological warfare. The shooting of two Israeli diplomats on U.S. soil was not a random act of hatred; it was the downstream effect of an incubated belief system, meticulously cultivated and transnationally disseminated by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Tehran no longer needs to smuggle explosives or train sleeper cells in secret camps to achieve its ends. It has created an ideological infrastructure that functions like a psychological IED — planted in digital spaces, academic departments, and protest movements, waiting to detonate in minds that have been sufficiently conditioned. That detonation occurred in Washington. It can, and will, happen again elsewhere.

Western societies have tolerated — even legitimised — the slow infiltration of Iranian propaganda under the banners of *anti-colonial resistance*, *Palestinian solidarity*, and *intersectional justice*. These vehicles have provided moral camouflage for an apocalyptic ideology that seeks the destruction of the Jewish people and the dismantling of the liberal international order. The IRGC and its cultural arms are not merely military entities; they are global manufacturers of narrative warfare.

The real battlefield is no longer limited to Gaza, Beirut, or Damascus. It now includes Washington, D.C., London, Berlin, Paris, and Brussels — cities where Iranian influence operations have successfully created ideological echo chambers that blur the lines between activism and incitement, criticism and conspiracy, protest and pogrom.

This is not just terrorism. This is state-engineered ideological contagion.

Iran's doctrine of war is not restricted to the kinetic. It is conceptual, psychological, and increasingly domestic to the West. If policymakers and intelligence agencies fail to move beyond traditional paradigms of counterterrorism — if they do not recognise and dismantle the scaffolding of radicalisation Iran has erected — the next Rodrigues will not be the exception. He will be the prototype.